

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 03907 080826Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 /031 W
-----110377 080915Z /11

P 080717Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9939
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 3907

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, ELAB, OTRA
SUBJECT: MCATEER GROUP VISIT ON MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH

REF: (A) PRAGUE 1495 (NOTAL), (B) GENEVA 08277 (NOTAL),
(C) BUCHAREST 3769 (NOTAL), (D) MOSCOW 12483 (NOTAL)

1. IN LIGHT OF INABILITY TO OBTAIN VISAS FOR USSR
(REFTEL D) AND DUBIOUS PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL VISIT
IN PRAGUE AS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL A, MCATEER GROUP HAS
DECIDED TO CUT SHORT EAST EUROPEAN LEG OF VISIT. GROUP
WILL NOT TRAVEL TO PRAGUE BUT INSTEAD PROCEED TO
DUSSELDORF, ARRIVAL O/A JUNE 10.

2. IN BUCHAREST, AFTER EXPENDING CONSIDERABLE TIME AND
EFFORT, EMBASSY WAS SUCCESSFUL IN ARRANGING MEETINGS FOR
GROUP WITH MINISTRY
OF MINES AND MINISTRY OF LABOR.
MCATEER AND COMPANY WERE SUBSEQUENTLY PERMITTED TO VISIT
COAL MINE IN PRAHOVA COUNTY.

3. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH PROGRAM WAS FINALLY ARRANGED,
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IN OUR VIEW VISIT WAS OF LIMITED VALUE TO GROUP AND
NEEDLESSLY TIED UP CONSIDERABLE EMBASSY RESOURCES
PRIMARILY DUE TO FACT THAT GROUP DID NOT PRESS FOR PRIOR
APPROVALS FROM HOST GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT STUDY.
MCATEER AND COMPANY ARRIVED IN BUCHAREST WITHOUT ANY
ADVANCE NOTICE TO EMBASSY AND ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN
ARRANGING PROGRAM FOR PRIVATE STUDY ON WHAT IN MOST

COUNTRIES, AND PARTICULARLY IN ROMANIA, IS AN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ISSUE. NET RESULT WAS THAT GROUP HAD AT MOST TWO PRODUCTIVE DAYS OUT OF SIX IN BUCHAREST AND EMBASSY EXPENDED MEASURE OF GOOD WILL WITH MID-LEVEL GOR AUTHORITIES IN FACILITATING PROGRAM. ALSO, FACT THAT VISIT REQUIRED DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF EMBASSY LENT IMPRESSION TO GOR AUTHORITIES THAT STUDY WAS GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED AND THEREBY POLITICALLY MOTIVATED DESPITE EMBASSY DISCLAIMERS. FINALLY, GROUP LEFT BUCHAREST SOMEWHAT DISGRUNTLED THAT THEY WERE NOT PERMITTED FREE USE OF EMBASSY CABLE AND PHONE FACILITIES AND ALSO SEEMED TO BLAME EMBASSY FOR THEIR LACK OF SUCCESS IN OBTAINING SOVIET VISAS.

4. CLEARLY, THIS VISIT POSED MANY PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM LACK OF PLANNING BY GROUP AS WELL AS APPARENT NAIVETE WITH REGARD TO EASTERN EUROPEAN/SOVIET ENVIRONMENT. MCATEER CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH, QUOTE, SOMEONE FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT, END QUOTE, PRIOR TO U.S. DEPARTURE. IN THE FUTURE, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT GROUPS OF THIS TYPE BE DISCOURAGED FROM PROCEEDING WITH PROJECTS WITHOUT PROPER PREPARATION, GUIDANCE AND UNTIL DIRECT CONTACT WITH HOST GOVERNMENT COUNTERPARTS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AND APPROPRIATE APPROVALS OBTAINED. END COMMENT.

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